

DESCRIPTION

Sonoma Creek drains a 170-square mile area from the Sonoma and Mayacamas Mountains into the Valley. Land cover in the watershed as of 2000 was as follows: 12% urban (concentrated along Highway 12 in the central part of the watershed), 2% other paved area, 14% vineyard, 15% other agricultural (primarily hayfields and pasture), and 56% non-agricultural, undeveloped open space. About 18% of the watershed was protected open space, generally in upland State Parks and private conservation easements.

The City of Sonoma, the only incorporated city in the watershed, is in the central portion of the watershed. The lower portion of Sonoma creek is tidally influenced and low-lying areas support hay farming, wetlands, and other uses. The Department of Fish & Game is a substantial landowner in the lower, formerly tidal watershed. The USFWS San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge is located at the confluence of the Sonoma & Tolay Creek drainages and San Pablo Bay. The Sonoma County Water Agency operates a wastewater treatment plant just south of the City that discharges to Schell Slough from December through April, and reclaims water in the summer.

Sonoma Creek watershed supports an unusually diverse community of native fish and wildlife species in its stream, riparian, and wetland habitats. Considerable open space remains in the watershed, and potential for habitat enhancement and restoration is very high. Furthermore, stakeholders in the Sonoma Creek watershed have a longstanding tradition of citizen involvement in watershed-scale planning, management, and restoration activities.



Sonoma Creek

(Photo courtesy Sonoma Ecology Center, from KRIS

http://www.krisweb.com/kris_ems/krisdb/webbuilder/sc_p14.htm).

REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

Sonoma Creek is a 2002 303(d)-listed **impaired waterbody that is adjacent to a Wildlife Refuge** (the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge).

POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	<u>2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants</u> TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)			<u>Other Pollutants of Concern</u>		
Selected Coastal Waterbodies	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Pathogens</u>	<u>Sediment</u>	?	?	
Sonoma Creek ▲	▲ Medium	▲ Low	▲ Medium			a, b, c
Nathanson Creek ■						
Carriger Creek •						
Tolay Creek ♦						
Calabazas Creek □						
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
Agriculture	▲	▲	▲			a, b, c
Forestry (Silviculture)						
Urban Areas						
➤ Urban Runoff/ Storm Sewers	▲	▲	▲			

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Potential Sources of Pollutants, continued	Nutrients	Pathogens	Sediment	?	?	Efforts to Address Pollutants
➤ Construction/ Land Development	▲	▲	▲			a, b, c
➤ Land Development	▲	▲	▲			a, b, c
Marinas & Boating						
Hydromodification						
Wetlands & Riparian Areas						a, d
Erosion/Siltation						a

MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

a)	Watershed Assessment, Restoration Activities, Public Outreach, and Water Quality Monitoring			http://s4.vom.com/~sonomaecologycenter_org/
	Sonoma Ecology Center	Rebecca Lawton, Lisa Micheli, & Caitlin Cornwall	(707) 996-0712	sec-lawton@vom.com micheli@vom.com sec-cornwall@vom.com
	➤ Development of GIS maps for the watershed; invasive species eradication; public outreach, including environmental and creek education activities, and creek cleanup days; water quality monitoring; and sediment reduction.			
b)	Watershed Management Plan			http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-ssc/
	Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District	Leandra Swent	(707) 794-1242	sscrd@sonomamarinrcds.org
	➤ Improve water quality and ground water recharge in the Sonoma Creek			
c)	Sonoma Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Projects			http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/
	San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board	Peter Krottje, Tina Low, & Sandi Potter	(510) 622-2426	pkrottje@waterboards.ca.gov ; tlow@waterboards.ca.gov ; spotter@waterboards.ca.gov
	➤ Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects for sediment, pathogens, and nutrients.			
d)	Napa-Sonoma Marsh Water Quality Improvement Project			http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/
	California Coastal Conservancy	Nadine Hitchcock	(510) 286-4176	nhitchcock@ccc.ca.gov
	➤ The Coastal Conservancy acts with others to preserve, protect and restore the resources of the California Coast. Our vision is of a beautiful, restored and accessible coastline.			

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REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ City of Sonoma, Stormwater	http://www.sonomacity.org/Departments/publicworks.php	Al Bandur	(707) 933-2230	cityhall@sonomacity.org
➤ Sonoma County Water Agency	http://www.scwa.ca.gov/		(707) 526-5370	
➤ Sonoma County, Permit & Resource Management Dept.	http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/index.htm	Greg Carr	(707) 565-1944	gcarr@sonoma-county.org
➤ San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission	http://www.bcdc.ca.gov	Lindy Lowe	(415) 352-3642	lindyl@bcdcc.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html	Lisa Sniderman	(415) 904-5270	lsniderman@coastal.ca.gov
➤ San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfrancisco/bay/	Abigail Smith	(510) 622-2413	asmith@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ State Water Resources Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/	Heidi Hall	(916) 323-2871	hhall@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/	Karyn Gear	(510) 286-4171	kgear@scc.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Region 3	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/	Bill Cox	(707) 944-5500	bcox@dfg.ca.gov
➤ Calif. State Parks, Diablo Vista District	http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex/region_info.asp?id=5&submit1=go	Marla Hastings	(707) 938-9548	mhast@parks.ca.gov